

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1417
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Rip Lebkuecher upon receiving the American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Volunteer Award and for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Rip Lebkuecher, who is the national recipient of the American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Volunteer Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lebkuecher, a Gallatin resident, retired from the banking industry after a distinguished career with the John Harland Company; since becoming a Red Cross volunteer in 1999, he has worked on nearly thirty national disaster assignments including New York City following 9/11, Guam, Hurricane Katrina, and the recent Middle Tennessee tornadoes; and

WHEREAS, it is the first time that a nominee from the Nashville Area Chapter of the Red Cross has won the national award; the organization honored Rip Lebkuecher on May 12, 2006, at the American Red Cross National Convention in Washington, D.C., and while there, he also met with First Lady Laura Bush; and

WHEREAS, in a written statement, Mr. Lebkuecher said of his award, "I am humbled by this wonderful honor. It has been my privilege to work on disaster relief operations with excellent Red Cross volunteers and dedicated professional staff."; and

WHEREAS, Brenda Blakemore, Director of Emergency Services for the Nashville Area Chapter of the Red Cross, said of Mr. Lebkuecher, "Rip is everything you'd want in a volunteer; he is a mentor; he is a leader, and he gives so much of his time and talent."; and

WHEREAS, Rip Lebkuecher's experience in the field is something he carries with him to other assignments and in mentoring other volunteers, and his expertise and commitment to serve have proven invaluable in providing effective disaster relief; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lebkuecher epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Rip Lebkuecher for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Rip Lebkuecher for his meritorious service to the good people of Tennessee and our great nation, congratulate him upon receiving the American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Volunteer Award, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.